Pakistani move for formation of Commonwealth of Islamic Republics

1653. **SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:**
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to recent press reports about a Pakistani move for formation of a Commonwealth of Islamic Republics comprising Pakistan, Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhistan, Azarbaijan and Turkmenistan with Pakistan as its head, constituting it into an exclusive economic zone; and

(b) if so, the Government's perception about its diplomatic, economic and security ramifications in Central Asia?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) Government has seen media reports regarding a seminar organised in Islamabad in June, 1996 by some non-governmental organisations reportedly urging the formation of a confederation of Islamic countries.

(b) Government believes that most countries of Central Asia share India's perception that the formation of a regional political or economic grouping based on sectarian religious considerations is not in their interest or in the interest of peace, development and stability of the region.

राज्यों में जलाशय

1654. **श्री चिमनभाई हरिभाई शुक्ल:** क्या जल संसाधन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) राज्य सरकारों द्वारा स्वीकृति हेतु प्रस्तुत की गई जलाशय योजनाओं का ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) ये योजनाएं कब से लंबित हैं और इसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ग) इन योजनाओं को कब तक स्वीकृति प्रदान किये जाने की संभावना है?

जल संसाधन मंत्री (श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र): (क) और (ख) राज्य सरकारों द्वारा प्रस्तुत उन जलाशय परियोजनाओं के ब्यौरे को दर्शानेवाला विवरण अनुपत्र में दिया गया है जो केन्द्र में स्वीकृति के लिए लंबित है। **[देखिए परिशिष्ट 178, अनुपत्र सं० 38]**

(ग) यद्यपि परियोजनाओं के मूल्यांकन के लिए समय सीमा निर्धारित है, फिर भी स्वीकृति में विलम्ब का कारण राज्य सरकारों द्वारा विभिन्न केन्द्रीय मूल्यांकन अभिकरणों की टिप्पणियों की अनुपालना में विलंब करना है।

Indian Students engaged in Smuggling in Russia

1655. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Indian students studying in Russia are turning couriers for smugglers;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any analysis of the circumstances forcing the Indian students in Russia in smuggling activities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof stating the steps taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) Government are aware that some Indian students studying in Russia have indulged in illegal activities.

(b) While illegal activities cannot be condoned, Government are congnizant of the difficulties being faced by Indian students owing to reduction or elimination of stipends and increase in the cost of living.

(c) Government have taken steps to alleviate these difficulties to the extent possible. In recent years, there has been considerable liberalisaiton in the foreign exchange conversion facilities available for students going for higher studies abroad.

In November 1994, Government entered into an agreement with the